

head office of the Bank during the past two months; and

(c) The action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Punjab National Bank has reported that it has a scheme for payment of ex-gratia amount in the cases of all employees, who die while in service and that such claim cases are settled expeditiously. The bank has reported that all the 24 claims received by the Head Office of the Bank during the last two months have been settled.

(c) In view of the reply to parts (a) & (b) above, no further action appears necessary.

Procurement of Newsprint

3606. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has succeeded in procuring newsprint from international market including the US at prices 24 to 40 percent below the lowest rate of procurement last year;

(b) if so, the efforts made in this regard; and

(c) the comparative rates at which different types of newsprints are being procured under various agreements signed this year and those during the past two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). As compared with the lowest CIF price at which newsprint was purchased during 1990-91, STC has succeeded in procuring newsprint during October 1991 at prices lower by about 12%

(Standard) and about 14% (Glazed) in terms of US\$ CIF price by making the purchases in a phased manner.

(c) Average CIF cost of purchases made by STC from GCA in Rs. PMT for the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 is given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Glazed</i>
1989-90	10,559	13,268
1990-91	10,909	14,949
1991-92 (Apr-May '91)	12,744	17,440

(CIF pre-devaluation dollar rupee rates)

(CIF prices are based on the exchange rates on the dates of contracting).

Jahangir Nazarana Coin

3607. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action to retrieve the famous Jahangir Nazarana Coin weighing about eleven Kilogram of gold against which Prince Mukaram Jah, the successor of the late Nizam VII, took a loan from the Indo-Buez Bank, Geneva;

(b) whether the Government have investigated the matter to ascertain as to how it was taken out of the country;

(c) whether it was a violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Jahangir Nazarana Coin,